

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bob Holden, Governor • Stephen M. Mahfood, Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr., Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division
1400 Walnut St.
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Dear General Arnold:

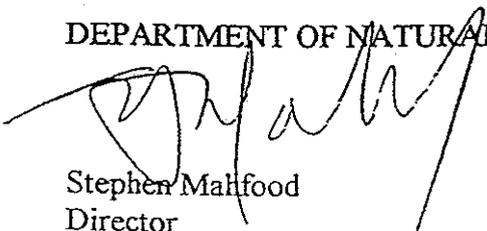
In response to your letter dated April 9, 2001, the state of Missouri is pleased to endorse the implementation of the Lower Mississippi River Natural Resources Assessment authorized in Section 402 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000). We certainly support the need for an assessment that will provide the necessary information to properly manage the natural resources of the lower river.

We understand that phase one of the assessment is to be a reconnaissance study which will be conducted in cooperation with the participating states and funded totally with federal funds. We also understand that the required state match for phase two of the assessment (feasibility study) has been partially if not totally satisfied by the work that already has been accomplished on the Aquatic Resource Management Plan.

We appreciate Don Basham's presentation at the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee's annual meeting earlier this year. We look forward to cooperating on the assessment. We propose that the states be involved in the development of the plan of work for the assessment. The state of Missouri would be willing to participate in the development of a plan of work and contribute to the assessment work where appropriate. The contact for the state of Missouri is Mike Wells. Mike can be reached by telephone at (573) 751-2867 or by e-mail at nrwellm@mail.dnr.state.mo.us. Please do not hesitate to contact Mike if we can provide additional information or support. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this cooperative effort.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Stephen Mahfood
Director

c: Governor Bob Holden